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PROGRAM Metromedia News

STATION WTTG TV

DATE April 29, 1983 11:00 PM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Jack Anderson: Suriname and Brazil

GLORIA GIBSON: Another hot spot may be developing to America's south. Metromedia 5's Jack Anderson has learned the CIA is trying to head off a war between Brazil and one of its neighbors.

JACK ANDERSON: The Central Intelligence Agency today received a top secret message. It reports that a brigade of Brazilian soldiers have crossed the border into neighboring Suriname. The Brazilian force is poised in the jungle for an attack on the capital city of Paramaribo.

The Brazilians have sent an ultimatum to the president of Suriname, Colonel Desire Bouterse. He's a left-wing military ruler who has surrounded himself with Cuban and East German advisers. The ultimatum serves notice on Bouterse that the Brazilian force will invade his capital within 72 hours unless he kicks out his communist advisers.

Here's the background. Suriname is not exactly the hottest tourist spot on the northern coast of South America. But this former Dutch colony is quickly becoming the first pro-Soviet, pro-Cuban nation in South America. The Dutch left behind a US-built runway that's long enough for jet fighters. From this field, Cuban Mig-23 jets could strike 1,000 miles deep into Brazil, so the Brazilians have intervened.

My sources tell me the United States is attempting to intercede secretly to prevent a war between Brazil and Suriname, otherwise this could erupt into a major confrontation with the

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United States supporting Brazil and the Soviets supporting  
Suriname.

This is Jack Anderson for Metromedia News in Washington.